

Week Ending Friday, April 3, 1998

Videotaped Remarks in a Message to Tracey Brown From Cape Town, South Africa

March 27, 1998

Tracey, I wish you could have been with us when we heard President Rawlings in Ghana, President Museveni in Uganda, talking about your father and how much he did for Africa and how much he did to bring America and Africa in closer contact. And of course, on Saturday in Johannesburg, we dedicated the Ron Brown Commercial Center—your mom was there—to your dad's memory. His legacy will live on here because the center will promote economic progress and individual empowerment and democracy.

Let me say that I've actually read your book from start to finish, and I loved it. And your daddy would be proud of it. And it's just sort of sassy and braggy enough, right where he was. *[Laughter]* So I hope you sell a zillion copies. You certainly deserve it, and I'm very, very proud of you.

NOTE: These remarks were videotaped at approximately 4:15 p.m. at the Cape Grace Hotel, to congratulate Ms. Brown on publication of her biography of her father, "The Life and Times of Ron Brown." In his remarks, the President referred to Ms. Brown's mother, Alma Brown. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Nelson Mandela in Somerset West, South Africa

March 27, 1998

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Deputy President, Ministers, Members of Parliament, members of the Judiciary, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Archbishop Tutu, ladies and gentlemen. First let me

thank you for your hospitality to Hillary and me and our delegation. We have had a wonderful time in South Africa. And I thank you, Mr. President, for the power of your leadership and the power of your example.

Today, when we toured Robben Island, I was reminded again that though you were locked in prison for a long time, you opened others' minds and hearts; you helped to educate your fellow inmates; you kindled the flame of humanity in your jailers; you planted a garden in the courtyard of Robben Island because of your faith in renewal. I can't imagine anyone I would rather receive an Order of Good Hope from than you.

And when, after 10,000 days of captivity, the gates of prison were opened, you emerged to face your nation unbitter and unbroken. That is the condition I hope the tent will maintain. *[Laughter]*

And truly you have built a new South Africa where all its people have a stake in the future. The symbols of that new South Africa are all around us. From your multiracial Parliament where I was honored to speak yesterday, to flourishing businesses where all races work side by side, to the very banquet we attend tonight, the people who work, the people who are seated, all of us here together, South Africa is a monument to the power of reconciliation.

Tonight we celebrate all you have accomplished. We pledge the partnership and friendship of the United States for the daunting work ahead, for seizing the challenges and the opportunities that face you today and in the century just around the corner.

I remember when we hosted the Olympic games in Atlanta in 1996. On the final day, the first black South African ever to win a gold medal in Olympic competition, Josiah Tungwane, dedicated his victory to his country and to President Mandela. I think it is worth recalling that his victory came in the marathon.

President Mandela has won a great victory in what is the longest marathon of the 20th century. But now it is important that you not lose the conviction, the energy, the sheer joy of daily living which accompanied your freedom. For the challenges you face also require a marathon.

One of our country's most eloquent political leaders, Mario Cuomo, whose son now serves in my Cabinet, once said that "in democracies we campaign in poetry, but we govern in prose." It is a marathon.

I come to say that the United States admires not only the leader but the people of South Africa, and we look forward to running that marathon with you. Let us not grow weary; let us never lose heart. Let us have confidence that the people can find the way.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a toast to the President and the people of South Africa.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:15 p.m. at the Vergelegen Estates. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Episcopal Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

March 28, 1998

Good morning. In the storefronts and shop windows of Jonesboro, Arkansas, there are signs that read, "Our hearts are with Westside Middle School." Even though Hillary and I are far away from our home State, our hearts, too, are with Westside, and with the grieving families whose loved ones were killed or injured in that tragic incident just 4 days ago.

This is the third time in recent months that a quiet town, and our Nation, have been shaken by the awful specter of students being killed by other young people at schools. We join the families of Jonesboro and all America in mourning this terrible loss of young life, life so full of promise and hope so cruelly cut short.

We mourn the loss of Natalie Brooks, of Paige Ann Herring, of Stephanie Johnson, of

Brittany Varner, and of a heroic teacher, Shannon Wright, who sacrificed her own life to save a child. These five names will be etched in our memories forever and linked forever with the names of Nicole Hadley, Jessica James, and Kayce Steger of Paducah, Kentucky, and Lydia Kay Dew and Christina Mennefee of Pearl, Mississippi. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all their families today.

We do not understand what drives children, whether in small towns or big cities, to pick up guns and take the lives of others. We may never make sense of the senseless, but we have to try. We have seen a community come together in grief and compassion for one another, and in the determination that terrible acts like these must no longer threaten our Nation's children.

Parents across America should welcome the news reported just this month by Attorney General Reno and Education Secretary Riley that the vast majority of our schools are safe and free of violent crime. We've worked hard to make our schools places of learning, not fear, places where children can worry about math and science, not guns, drugs, and gangs. But when a terrible tragedy like this occurs, it reminds us there is work yet to be done.

I have directed Attorney General Reno to bring together experts on school violence to analyze these incidents to determine what they have in common and whether there are further steps we can take to reduce the likelihood of something so terrible recurring.

Already we've seen the remarkable difference community policing has made in our Nation's streets. Now we have to apply that same energy and resolve to our schools to make them safer places for children to learn, play, and grow. At school there must be full compliance with our policy of zero tolerance toward guns, and at home there should be no easy access to weapons that kill.

Protecting our children from school violence is more than a matter of law or policy; at heart, it is a matter of basic values, of conscience and community. We must teach our children to respect others. We must instill in them a deep, abiding sense of right and wrong. And to children who are troubled,